

# LETTERS OF ASSASSIN

## Murderer of Philadelphia Physician Tells of Crime.

### VENGEANCE THE MOTIVE

#### Police Fear Man Who Sent Poisoned Ale Will Escape.

#### NO CLEW TO THE CRIMINAL

#### Writer of Notes to Coroner Tells of His Reason for Taking Doctor's Life.

PHILADELPHIA, July 4.—"Let those who live by poison die by poison."

The escaped murderer of Dr. William H. Wilson has given his defense for the commission of the crime. In a remarkable explanatory letter sent to Coroner Jermon the day after Wilson's death, and kept secret by the authorities until yesterday, the murderer calmly reviewed the murder and summed up the reasons which made him craftily plan the physician's death.

The murderer is a man of education. Last night, after exhausting clues which pointed to both an uptown merchant and a millionaire business man as the slayer of the malpractitioner, detectives came to the conclusion that the letters received after the murder and supposed to have been written by a crank were in fact written by the murderer, for the sole purpose of informing the public of the motive which he believed justified him to take another's life.

The murderer, it is now positively established, is a husband who thought it proper to rid the community of Dr. Wilson for the common good of all after he had suffered by the physician's unlawful practices. His wife died following treatment by Dr. Wilson. To accomplish his end and at the same time escape detection he planned so cunningly, so craftily, that yesterday the detectives were forced to confess themselves at sea and no nearer a solution of the mystery than the day they first went to work to solve the case.

#### Poisoner's First Letter.

The first letter received from the murderer was postmarked Bristol, Pa. It was mailed there June 27, at 5:30 p.m. It is typewritten on a sheet of plain paper of fine texture and addressed in a square envelope to J. M. Rush Jermon, coroner, city hall, Philadelphia. The letter reads:

"Dear Mr. Coroner: I want to write you regarding the death of Dr. W. H. Wilson. This person was a malpractitioner and in some way induced my wife, without my knowledge, to become a patient of his. As a result of poisonous injection he used, she died a few weeks ago. In order to protect her name, I did not give the last attending physician all the facts, and she was buried with another cause assigned.

"To rid the community of him I have removed him as I might a weed from a garden.

"I was in the printing business in a small way in a suburban town a few years ago, and had a few fonts of card printing type left. Also a small press. The printing was done entirely by myself. I bought one additional character of type.

"Now that this service to the community is rendered and the death of my dear wife avenged, I am going to quit this part of the world. I don't think you will ever find me, but don't care what happens, anyhow.

"My only regret is the grief I caused his wife and child, but I believe even they are better off without him.

"Think of it. A little investigation will no doubt prove to you that murder was his business.

"I say let those who live by poison die by poison.

"This letter is true in every detail, and to prove that I am the person who attended to this matter I will tell you that the ale contained cyanide and there were two seals with the letter S on the neck of the bottle. I know nothing about the diamond. I had no selfish motive. By the time you get this Monday morning, I will be far away from here. The town, by the way, from which this is mailed, is not the one in which I was in business. Yours truly,

"An Outraged Husband and Father."

#### Slayer Wants Publicity.

From Bristol the murderer went to Boston. From that city he sent another letter to Coroner Jermon. This letter is dated two days later, having been mailed June 29 at 9 a.m. and postmarked "Back Bay Station." The slayer, closely watching the papers, failed to see the letter explaining his justification of the crime in print. So he wrote again, asking the coroner to give the first letter to the papers. This is the letter:

"Dear Mr. Coroner: In my letter regarding Dr. Wilson I forgot to request you to give my letter to the papers, as it might be well to let the public \* \* \* know that there are some people who regard this sort of thing in its true light—murder of the most cowardly sort.

"If it ever comes my way to do anything for the little girl I will certainly do anything in my power, provided Mrs. Wilson does nothing toward carrying on his infernal business."

The detectives realized last night that only the murderer and the officers at work on the case could know of the "S" piece of type which had been used to impress the letter into the sealing wax around the neck of the bottle of poisoned ale. At the time of the receipt of the first letter Dr. Wilson's death was supposed to be due to natural causes. A day later it was said he had committed suicide, and it was not until three days later that the coroner was in possession of the letter informing him that Dr. Wilson had been murdered and why he had been murdered.

#### Letter With the Ale.

The police last night made public the decoy letter sent to Dr. Wilson June 23 paving the way for the bottle of poisoned ale. This letter was typewritten. At the top of the leaf was printed the inscription "Peter Schemm & Son, Brewers, 23th and Poplar streets." The envelope bore the name and address of the Schemm brewery also. The murderer with his font of type printed both letterhead and envelope, the police say. Peter Schemm stated yesterday that his firm never used such a letterhead, that it was bogus and had been printed apparently for the sole purpose of aiding in the murder plan. This letter, mailed to Dr. Wilson June 23 at 1 a.m. and postmarked "West Philadelphia," reads:

"William H. Wilson, M.D.

"Dear Doctor: We are taking the liberty of sending a few physicians' sample bottles of our new product, 'standard ale.'"

"Believing there is a field for an American ale that can compete in quality with foreign brands, we have devoted our best efforts to producing a beverage that for flavor and healthfulness is beyond criticism.

"As the beneficial qualities of our ale is to be our strong talking point, we have decided to co-operate with the physicians as far as possible in the introduction of our goods. We figure this plan will be more effective than the heavy magazine advertising generally considered necessary for the introduction of anything new. This alone shows that we have the utmost confidence in this brew.

"If you find the sample to your liking and can conscientiously recommend our ale to your patients and friends, we request you to fill in and return inclosed blank.

"'Standard ale' will be on the market in July. Its keeping qualities is excellent, and you will notice very little fermentation upon opening the bottle. Yours very truly, PETER SCHEMM & SON.

"All ale should be kept cool and in a vertical position for a few hours prior to using."